

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /082 W

----- 119661

R 111726Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1048

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

THE HAGUE 317

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP, MO, UN

SUBJECT: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS

REF A. MADRID 723 B. MADRID 628

1. GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF SAHARA HELD SPECIAL SESSION FEB 6-8
AT EL AAIUN. SECGEN OF GOVT RODRIGUEZ DE VIGURI PRESENTED
REVIEW OF LATEST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESPECT TO CEUTA,
MELILLA, AND PROPOSAL BY AUSTRALIAN DELEGATE IN UN THAT UN
INVESTIGATING TEAM BE SENT WITHOUT DELAY TO SAHARA IN ORDER
TO ACCELERATE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION. ASSEMBLY ELECTED
FOUR ADVISORS (ASESORES) FOR COUNCIL OF GOVT AS WELL AS
CREATION OF A PERMANENT COMMITTEE TO ACT IN ASSEMBLY'S NAME
IN BETWEEN REGULAR OR SPECIAL SESSION (REF B). ELECTION
OF COMMITTEE WAS IN RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION MADE AT
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OPENING SESSION BY GOVERNOR GENERAL GOMEZ DE SALAZAR WHO

EMPHASIZED NEED TO HAVE PERMANENT BODY CAPABLE OF RESOLC NG
"OUR URGENT MATTERS."

2. ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT JATRI ULD SAID SPOKE IN FAVOR OF
UNION OF SAHARAN PEOPLE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN INDEPENDENCE
AND ASKED SECGEN DE VIGURI TO TRANSMIT TO GOS, ASSEMBLY'S
DESIRE THAT IT BACK THIS ASPIRATION.

3. LATEST ISSUE OF WEEKLY "DOBLON" CONTAINS INTERVEIW
WITH JATRI WHO REFERRED TO SAHARAN CLAIM TO PARTS OF
MOROCCO, ALGERIA AND MAURITANIA AS ORIGINALLY BELONGING
TO SAHARAN TERRITORY. THESE TERRITORIES INCLUDE TARFAYA
AND TAN TAN NOW PART OF MOROCCO, TINDUF NOW BELONGING TO
ALGERIA ("WHEN FRENCH ARRIVED IT TINDUF THEY DID NOT
MEET ALGERIANS, THEY MET SAHARANS"). HE ALSO CLAIMED AREAS
OF BIR JUM GRIENE AND MONTE IDJIL NOW IN MAURITANIAN
TERRITORY ("WHEN FRENCH REACHED THESE AREAS, THEY FIRST
ENCOUNTERED SAHARANS").

4. COMMENT: GOS HAS TAKEN STEPS TO MOBILIZE SAHARAN
OPINION IN FAVOR OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND EVENTUAL INDE-
PENDENCE AS WELL AS TO GIVE VOICE TO SAHARANS AS MEANS OF
BUTTRESSING ARGUMENT THAT THEY MUST BE CONSULTED BEFORE ANY
DECISION IN UN FORUM IS MADE ABOUT THEIR FUTURE. T LGK
HAS BEEN NO INFORMATION ABOUT POSTPONEMENT OF REFERENDUM
ORIGINALLY PROMISED BY GOS TO BE HELD IN FIRST HALF OF
1975, BUT SPAIN HAS SET THE STAGE SO THAT, AT ITS
DISCRETION, ANY IMPORTANT DECISION BY UN REGARDING TIMING
OF REFERENDUM OR ULTIMATE STATUS OF AREA CAN BE
SUBMITTED TO ASSEMBLY'S PERMANENT COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL.
IT IS PERHAPS ONE WAY OF KEEPING SAHARAN OPINION ENGAGED
AS LEGITIMATE INTERLOCUTOR. THEREBY UNDERCUTTING APPARENT
MOROCCAN EFFORTS TO BYPASS CONSULTATION OF SAHARANS ABOUT
THEIR FUTURE. IF MOROCCO RAISED THE ANTE BY INTRODUCING
ISSUE OF STATUS OF CEUTA AND MELILLA WITH SPAIN, LATTER
HAS RESPONDED IN KIND BY INCREASING PRESSURE LOCALLY IN
SAHARA FOR EVENTUAL SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID00978
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750050-0958
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750254/aaaabwjr.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 723, 75 MADRID 628
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP, MO, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006